(e) if so, what are the recommendations made by the Task Force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) does not make any distinction between Life Saving drugs and other drugs. There is no specific norms or guidelines to determine as to which drugs can be classified as life saving drugs. Every drug, in general, is considered useful in saving and prolonging of life.

(d) and (e) A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Adviser, Planning Commission was constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices. The Task Force has submitted its report to the Government on the 20th September, 2005. Some of the salient recommendations of Task Force are, that Price Controls should be imposed on the 'essentiality' of the drug and not on the basis of turnover and it should be applied only to formulations and not to bulk drugs. Some of the other major recommendations of Task Force are to promote generic drugs, to encourage public health facilities, to revive the Public Sector Enterprises in the manufacture of drugs, to provide fiscal incentives in R&D activities in drugs, to provide financial support for implementation of Schedule M of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, to enact Drugs and Therapeutics (Regulation) Act, to establish a National Authority on Drugs and Therapeutics (NADT), to establish price negotiation process for new patented drugs, to streamline the bulk procurement regime, to exempt the excise duty, customs duty and other levies on cancer and anti HIV/AIDS drugs, to establish the State Illness Funds in the States/Union Territories for BPL families, to reduce the excise duty on drugs from 16 to 8%, to enhance the exemption limit of SSI units from Rs. 1 crores to Rs. 5 crores, to establish a Settlement Commission which is authorized to settle the disputed overcharged amount from the pharma companies.

Control of wheat prices

28. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seized of the sharp rise in the prices of wheat in the retail markets during the recent past;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of wholesale and retail prices of wheat especially in North India during the period April, 2002/03, till date;

(d) the details of wheat stock held by FCI during the same period, month-wise; and

(e) the details of the steps taken, if any, for arresting increase in wheat prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes Sir. Government is aware of the recent increase in prices of wheat in the retail markets.

(b) The increase in the prices can be attributed to a variety of reasons such as relatively lower level of stocks in the Central Pool, seasonal factors etc.

(c) The details of wholesale and retail prices of wheat at selected centres in North India during the period April 2002 till February 2006 are given at Statement I and II (*See* below).

(d) The details of month-wise stocks held by FCI and other State agencies during the period April 2002 to January 2006 are given at Statement III.

(e) The following steps have been taken to check the increase in prices:

(i) Increased allocation of wheat under the Open Market Sale Scheme;

(ii) Freeze on the Central Issue Prices under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in order to encourage more off-take;

(iii) Decision to import wheat for augmenting the availability in the Southern Zone;

(iv) Ensuring adequate availability of wheat stocks for the TPDS and Welfare Schemes in all the State of the country.

(v) Daily Monitoring of retail and wholesale prices of wheat.

Statement-I

Month-end wholesale prices of Wheat at selected centres from April 2002 to February, 2006*

(Rs. per qtl.)

Centre	Apr-02	May-02	Jun-02	Jul-02	Aug-02	Sep-02	Oct-02	Nov-02	Dec-02	Jan-03	Feb-03	Mar-03	Apr-03	May-03	Jun-03	Jul-03	Aug-03	Sep-03	Oct-03	Nov-03	Dec-03	Jan-04	Feb-04	Mar-04
Delhi	625	640	650	655	645	650	660	695	700	700	695	700	655	685	700	685	680	705	755	755	780	785	775	700
Hisar	620	620	600	630	625	630	630	630	700	690	712	700	650	670	655	645	650	660	700	745	755	765	760	710
Karnal	615	600	590	620	620	620	620	640	640	660	670	700	690	695	700	710	710	700	730	745	780	775	745	680
Amritsar	620	620	620	620	620	620	620	620	620	620	700	620	700	700	700	700	700	700	740	750	750	750	750	750
Ludhiana	630	620	620	620	620	620	620	620	620	620	620	620	725	700	700	720	700	700	720	770	770	770	770	770
Lucknow	560	620	620	620	630	640	625	615	620	690	700	650	630	625	700	640	635	650	685	700	700	710	725	720
Kanpur	530	540	590	630	640	640	620	630	635	670	660	640	620	630	630	640	650	650	650	670	670	700	730	725
Chandigarh	663	630	628	626	625	630	610	620	627	650	633	690	705	800	700	705	650	650	650	750	770	745	780	750

Centre	Apr-04	May-04	Jun-04	Jul-04	Aug-04	Sep-04	Oct-04	Nov-04	Dec-04	Jan-05	Feb-05	Mar-05	Apr-05	May-05	Jun-05	Jul-05	Aug-05	Sep-05	Oct-0	Nov-05	Dec-05	Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06
Delhi	665	670	680	760	767	735	755	775	770	785	775	760	685	725	765	770	760	770	805	865	907	1020	963	
Hisar	650	650	650	685	730	725	720	740	750	750	730	720	690	700	700	700	700	700	700	830	800	950	900	
Karnal	700	705	690	700	735	735	750	770	740	750	760	740	690	700	725	735	730	730	800	850	850	980	930	
Amritsar	750	700	700	700	705	700	750	755	755	755	750	750	640	655	655	655	655	680	720	750	800	900	900	
Ludhiana	770	700	700	700	770	770	780	780	780	780	780	780	780	780	780	780	780	780	720	850	850	920	920	
Lucknow	640	630	635	635	675	700	710	710	730	730	730	645	640	660	685	720	735	725	710	835	845	910	1010	
Kanpur	635	635	630	655	710	730	730	700	700	720	720	650	640	670	690	720	730	750	730	800	850	925	900	
Chandigarh	750	655	650	700	705	725	720	755	755	755	755	755	755	755	755	755	755	755	755	755	730	730	850	

Source: State Civil Supplies Departments.*-Price as on 1.2.2006

Statement-II

Month-end retail prices of Wheat at selected centres from April 2002 to February, 2006*

(Rs per kg)

Centre	Apr-02	May-02	Jun-02	Jul-02	Aug-02	Sep-02	Oct-02	Nov-02	Dec-02	Jan-03	Feb-03	Mar-03	Apr-03	May-03	Jun-03	Jul-03	Aug-03	Sep-03	Oct-03	Nov-03	Dec-03	Jan-04	Feb-04	Mar-04
Delhi	7.50	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	8.00	7.75	7.75	7.50	7.50	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	8.25	8.25	8.75	8.75	8.75	8.50
Hisar	6.40	6.40	6.20	6.60	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	7.50	7.00	7.25	7.20	6.80	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.25	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.20
Karnal	6.20	6.10	6.00	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.50	6.50	6.70	6.80	7.25	7.00	7.00	7.10	7.20	7.20	7.10	7.40	7.50	7.90	7.80	7.50	6.90
Amritsar	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25
Ludhiana	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.50	8.00	7.50	7.40	7.50	7.50	7.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.00	8.50
Lucknow	6.00	6.50	6.50	6.75	6.75	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.50	8.00	7.50	7.50	7.25	8.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.25	8.00
Kanpur	6.00	6.40	6.60	6.70	6.80	6.80	6.50	6.60	6.75	7.00	6.90	6.70	6.50	6.60	6.60	6.80	7.00	7.00	7.50	7.20	7.20	7.50	7.80	7.75
Chandigarh	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	9.00	9.00	9.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	8.50	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00

Centre	Apr-04	May-04	Jun-04	Jul-04	Aug-04	Sep-04	Oct-04	Nov-04	Dec-04	Jan-05	Feb-05	Mar-05	Apr-05	May-05	Jun-05	Jul-05	Aug-05	Sep-05	Oct-05	Nov-05	Dec-05	Jan-06	Feb*-06
Delhi	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.50	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	8.50	8.00	8.50	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	10.00	10.00	11.00	11.00
Hisar	7.00	7.00	6.70	7.00	7.60	7.50	7.60	7.50	7.60	7.60	7.50	7.30	7.00	7.10	7.20	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	8.50	8.50	10.00	10.00
Karnal	7.10	7.10	7.00	7.10	7.45	7.45	7.60	7.80	7.45	7.55	7.65	7.45	7.00	7.10	7.30	7.40	7.35	7.35	8.00	8.70	8.65	10.00	10.00
Amritsar	8.25	7.50	7.50	7.50	8.00	7.50	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	9.00	10.00	10.00
Ludhiana	8.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	8.50	8.50	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	9.00	9.00	10.00	10.00
Lucknow	7.25	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.25	7.50	7.50	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.75	8.00	8.25	8.30	8.25	9.50	9.50	10.50	10.50
Kanpur	6.75	7.00	6.80	7.00	7.50	7.80	7.80	7.80	7.50	7.80	7.80	7.50	6.80	6.80	7.20	7.75	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.80	9.00	9.75	9.50
Chandigarh	9.00	8.00	7.50	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	10.00

Source: State Civil Supplies Departments.

*-Price as on 1.2.2006

Statement—III

Stocks of Wheat in Central Pool

(In lakh tonnes)

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2002				260.39	381.04	413.17	410.74	396.58	379.02	356.37	330.59	312.72
2003	288.30	213.21	185.80	156.45	260.12	265.36	241.94	224.27	207.04	184.27	164.13	145.62
2004	126.87	109.50	85.73	69.31	190.33	193.90	191.52	174.26	157.73	142.23	126.31	106.6
2005	89.31	73.05	57.50	40.66	150.50	157.38	144.54	129.81	116.22	102.90	90.52	76.31
2006	61.88											

Source: Department of Food and Public Distribution.